



American Public Health Association

800 I Street NW • Washington, DC 20001-3710

(202) 777-APHA • Fax: (202) 777-2534 • comments@apha.org • www.apha.org

July 2, 2001

2001-014-766

General Services Administration
FAR Secretariat (MVP)
1800 F Street, N.W., Room 4035
Washington, D.C. 20405

Re: FAR Case 2001-014

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the American Public Health Association (APHA), the largest and oldest organization of public health professionals, representing more than 50,000 members from over 50 public health occupations, I write in opposition to the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council's proposal to repeal the Clinton administration's rules on federal contractor responsibility. The rules require contracting officers to look at a company's record of complying with the law in deciding whether the company is a "responsible contractor" eligible to receive a federal contract.

APHA believes that a company's track record of complying with environmental protection, public health and safety and occupational health and safety laws should be an important factor in deciding whether the company receives a federal contract.

Companies that illegally pollute our rivers and streams, fail to comply with occupational health and safety regulations, or release pollutants into our environment in violation of clean air laws should not be rewarded with lucrative federal contracts. APHA believes repealing this rule would be unfair to companies that comply with these important laws, and would allow violators to profit from illegal activities.

APHA believes that federal contracts should go to law-abiding corporations, not those who put profits ahead of their legal responsibilities. We urge you not to repeal the contractor responsibility rules and to allow them to go into effect without further delay.

Thank you for your attention to our request.

Sincerely,

Mohammad N. Akhter, MD, MPH
Executive Director

